



PRAYING WITH PURPOSE MINISTRIES

The Principle Of Authority

In the historical books of the Bible — Joshua, Judges, Ruth and 1 Samuel, Israel goes from the rule of theocracy to monarchy. Under the theocracy rule, God gave authority to persons to lead the Israelites in the Promised Land; but He would be their heavenly King and work through these leaders. However, under the monarchy rule they would have an earthly king anointed by God to lead the people. We will use the **Principle of Authority** to examine the challenges they faced, especially the different levels of authority — spiritual, natural, and civil.

I. Introduction

- A. The Principle of Authority — God’s plan to protect our lives (Genesis 2:16 –17)
- B. Principle works by faith (Hebrews 11:6)
- C. Cannot be fully comprehended by the natural mind (I Corinthians 2:14)
- D. Principle’s benefits are spiritually discerned (I Corinthians 3:9–13)
- E. The Holy Spirit — organizer, enabler, director (John 14:26, 15:26, 6:11–14)

II. Paradigm (Pattern): A discipline-building principle

Discipline — a system of rules of conduct or method of practice; training to improve strength or self-control; train by instruction and practice.

“Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God’s will in thought, purpose, and action). So that the man of God may be complete and proficient, well fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (1 Timothy 3:16–17 AMP)

Discipline — an automatic response to righteousness

Functional aspects of authority:

- A. Permission to act — authority grants power
- B. Power to enforce
- C. Authority is two dimensional
 - 1. the position — job title, name, duty
 - 2. the exercise — carrying out duty

III. Plan/Objective: To stay in position with God or under the Word of God

There is an orderly arrangement of the authority of God which consists of three kinds of authority.

- A. Spiritual — Word of God is sovereign over all — highest level of authority
 - 1. know your position in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:4–6)
 - 2. use authority Jesus gave us to bind and loose (Matthew 18:18–20)
- B. Natural—authority one has over another (I Corinthians 11:1–3)
 - 1. cup of marriage (Ephesians 5:20–31)
 - 2. cup of parenting (Ephesians 6:1–4)
- C. Civil — natural law of the land for common good of all (Romans 13:1–7)

IV. Purpose/Goal: To actualize Biblical concepts /truths for successful Christian living

- A. Set under authority (Luke 7:1–11)
- B. Know the difference between position of authority and person in authority
- C. Exercise authority for the good of others

V. Practical Application

- A. Remain “set under” authority — spiritual, natural, civil
- B. Redeem the time
- C. Use your spiritual authority to pray for those in authority (I Timothy 2:1–6)